

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended, and claim 12 is canceled. Claims 14-23 are withdrawn in view of the Restriction Requirement. The title is amended.

In particular, claims 1 and 8 are amended for better clarity. See Figs. 1 and 4, respectively. Reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the reference listed on, and to return initialed copy of, the Form PTO-1449 of the Information Disclosure Statement concurrently filed herewith.

The Office Action objects to the title. The title is amended, as the Examiner requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 8 is amended for better clarity, and claim 12 is canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,900,528 to Mess et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Mess discloses all elements recited in claim 1. However, Mess does not disclose or suggest a lead extending toward the die pad, the lead being a separate element from the die pad, as recited in claim 1.

Mess discloses a package in which a wire 62 connects a semiconductor chip 60A or 60B to a metallization area 58 on the top side 66 of substrate 70. See Figs. 13 and 14 and col. 6, lines 47-50. Because the metallization area 58 is on the top side 66 of substrate 70, the metallization area 58 is a part of the substrate 70. Mess does not disclose a metallization area

("lead") that is a separate element from the substrate 70 ("die pad"). Therefore, Mess does not disclose a lead extending toward the die pad, the lead being a separate element from the die pad, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Mess does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, and claims 2-5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,731,011 to Verma et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Verma has a filing date of February 19, 2002, which is later than the December 28, 2001 priority date of the present application. Thus, Verma does not qualify as a prior art reference. An accurate translation of the priority document JP 2001-400229 is enclosed to perfect the claim for priority of the present application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Verma is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent 6,727,574. A Terminal Disclaimer is concurrently filed herewith to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-13 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Information Disclosure Statement
Translation of Priority Document JP 2001-400229
Terminal Disclaimer

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